

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 8-15, and 19-33 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 8, 13, 19, 23, 25 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. While all pending claims have been indicated as having allowable subject matter, Claim 1 stands objected to because of an informality and all pending claims stand rejected on the ground of obvious-type nonstatutory double patenting over Claims 1-7, 10-24, 26, 27, and 31-33 of U.S. Patent No. 6,763,460.

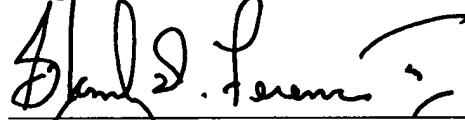
Claim 1 has been amended herein as suggested by the Office in the outstanding Office Action to address the informalities therein. As such, it is respectfully submitted this objection has been obviated. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

With respect to the obvious-type nonstatutory double patenting rejection, submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any terminal disclaimer fees associated with this communication or

credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0510. It is respectfully submitted this rejection should now be withdrawn. It should be noted, however, the submission of the terminal disclaimer is not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-4, 8-15, and 19-33, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stanley D. Ference III", written over a horizontal line.

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